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JOURNALS AND NEW BOOKS

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL REVIEW. March, 1910. *Evolution and Consciousness* (pp. 77-97): C. H. JUDD. — The presidential address before the Psychological Association. "Consciousness is a product of evolution which continues in a higher form the movement which is manifested in all earlier adaptations." "As soon as consciousness was fully evolved the direction of all adaptations was radically modified." "If any scientific explanation of human life is to be attained that explanation must be based on a thorough study of consciousness." Progress is toward increased complexity which tends more and more to make the organism self-sufficient so far as the immediate environment is concerned. Consciousness promotes self-sufficiency by taking up the environment and moulding it to the individual's needs. The laws governing organic and conscious life are therefore inner laws that differ from those of the outer world. When this condition was reached then human imagination began to reorganize the environment in accordance with its own activity. The nutritive system uses the materials of the environment for building itself but does not make over the environment to suit the ends of the individual as man with his highly developed consciousness has more and more been able to do. In addition to this, language, art, etc., have been developed, not because of their biological value in the struggle for existence but because of their value to the conscious life. Changes in consciousness, not changes in bodily organs, account for man's advancing civilization. Consciousness is a cause of events in the physical world. The chemical explanation leaves out the facts of individual organization and consciousness which are causes of what shall take place. We are on the eve of a new type of psychology not unfriendly to biology, yet not dependent upon it, which "Will boldly assert its right to existence as the science which deals in a broad way with the evolutionary processes by which consciousness arose and through which the trend of life has been changed from organic adaptation to intelligent conquest." *The Nature and Causation of Galvanic Phenomenon* (pp. 98-146): BORIS SIDIS. — A continuation by Sidis and Louis Nelson of work carried out by Sidis and Kalmus and reported in the *Psychological Review* for September, 1908, and January, 1909. The evidence shows that "the galvanic phenomenon can only be due to an electromotive force initiated in the organism itself by the psycho-physiological processes under the influences of external stimulation." Investigations made to determine what particular physiological process gives rise to the current led to the final conclusion that "the galvanic phenomenon is due to an electromotive force which is muscular in origin, and other supposed causes are such only as they give rise to muscular contractions." *Personal Differences in Suggestibility* (pp. 147-154): WALTER D. SCOTT. — The writer brings his topic into connection with the problem of special and general ability. Students of the psychology class were tested for suggestibility by more than one method, and the degree of correlation was calculated. The results of two tests are here described. The two individuals that ranked highest in suggestibility in

the first test ranked fifth in the second and the three that ranked fourth in first ranked twelfth, fifteenth, and fifth in second. None had the same rank in the two tests and few anywhere near the same. Other experiments indicated that the same individual differs so much in suggestibility that it is absurd to speak of a person as suggestible without indicating in what line he has been tested.

NOTES AND NEWS

WILHELM OSTWALD reiterates in the introduction to his new work, "Die Entwicklung der Elektrochemie" (Leipzig: J. A. Barth), his theory that "the history of the sciences offers the best and most authoritative material for the study of law in the evolution of mankind." The history of science, as Professor Ostwald sees it, is not merely history for history's sake, but a new method of study, a new way of getting at the results of research. The nineteenth century was too full of creative work in the various fields of science to give historical studies their full play. The new century, on the other hand, though it has achieved already some very remarkable results in the way of positive additions to our knowledge of the forces of nature, will offer a larger field for historical studies, for the reason that the practical value of such studies will be more clearly demonstrated. The author deprecates the idea that pure science can have no connection with life. The great investigators, he says, "were almost without exception in their younger days passionately enthusiastic over some concrete, practical aim, and it was in the course of the further and higher development of these problems (which indeed followed rapidly one upon the other) that they themselves attained a wider and higher point of view. The tree of knowledge raises its crown high in the ether of pure science, but it is rooted in the firm ground of human needs and activities." Electrochemistry is particularly adapted to the subject of historical study in this sense. Its history is not yet more than a century old, and it has received a powerful impetus from men still living. Its documents are all easily available, and require no special linguistic or diplomatic criticism in order to be unearthed and interpreted. Furthermore, its technical importance is evenly balanced with its scientific. In an interesting paragraph the author sets up against each other the great books, works of men of genius, and the text-book writers who usually are men of moderate stature. We find, he says, so much in the original works of the great scientists that has not become part and parcel of the text-book literature. The selective work of the text-book writer is the result of his deliberate judgment, and the mere fact that he has profited by the advance of science does not necessarily give him the requisite critical faculty. He acts as a sieve which retains the wheat but lets the gold sand slip out.—*The Nation*.

THE Sixth Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology is to be held in conjunction with the meetings of the Southern Educational Association at Chattanooga, Tennessee, December 27-29, 1910.